

BEFORE THE OFFICE OF CAMPAIGN FINANCE  
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA BOARD OF ELECTIONS AND ETHICS  
FRANK D. REEVES MUNICIPAL BUILDING  
2000-14<sup>th</sup> STREET, N.W., SUITE 420  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20009  
(202) 671-0550

IN THE MATTER OF	)	DATE: October 6, 2003
	)	
Monte Hillis	)	DOCKET NO.: 03F-149
Member	)	
Commission on Violence Against Women	)	
1360 Kearney Street, NE	)	
Washington, DC 20017	)	

**ORDER**

**Statement of the Case**

This matter came before the Office of Campaign Finance (hereinafter OCF) Office of General Counsel following a determination by its Public Information Records Management Division, that pursuant to the D.C. Code §1-1106.02 (2001 Edition), Monte Hillis, Member, Commission on Violence Against Women (Commission), failed to timely file, a Financial Disclosure Statement for calendar year 2002, on or before May 15, 2003 as required by D.C. Official Code §1-1106.02 and also failed to file on or before the OCF sanctioned extended filing deadline of June 19, 2003.

By Notice of Hearing, Statement of Violations and Order of Appearance dated August 11, 2003, OCF ordered Monte Hillis (hereinafter respondent), to appear at a scheduled hearing on August 22, 2003 and show cause why she should not be found in violation of the D.C. Campaign Finance Reform and Conflict of Interest Act of 1974, as amended by D.C. Official Code §§1-1101.01 et seq., and fined accordingly.

**Summary of Evidence**

OCF alleges that the respondent failed to timely file the statutorily required Financial Disclosure Statement for calendar year 2002, on or before June 19, 2003.

On September 10, 2003, OCF received an affidavit from respondent stating she filed the required FDS electronically. Respondent further stated her term on the Commission commenced in January 2002, and that shortly thereafter the Chair of the Commission resigned. In October 2002, respondent agreed to serve as Chair on an interim basis, pending the appointment of a permanent Chair within two (2) months. In

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March 2003, respondent was informed of plans to abolish the Commission and to incorporate its functions into the structure of an evolving group. Based on the foregoing, respondent believed it was unnecessary to file an FDS with OCF. Respondent filed a final FDS on September 9, 2003.

**Findings of Fact**

Having reviewed the allegations and the record herein, I find:

1. Respondent was appointed to the Commission on Violence Against Women in January 2002.
2. Respondent terminated service on the Commission on Violence Against Women in March 2003.
3. Respondent was required to file a Financial Disclosure Statement with OCF for calendar year 2002, on or before June 19, 2003.
4. Respondent filed the required Financial Disclosure Statement on September 9, 2003.
5. Respondent is a first-time required FDS filer.
6. Respondent provided a credible explanation for the filing delinquency in that she believed upon notification of the impending abolishment of the Commission, she had no requirement to file a Financial Disclosure Statement with OCF.
7. Respondent is currently in compliance with the statute.

**Conclusions of Law**

Based upon the record provided by OCF, I therefore conclude:

1. Respondent violated D.C. Official Code §1-1106.02.
2. The penalty established at D.C. Official Code §1-1103.05(b)(3), and 3 DCMR §§3711.2(aa), 3711.2 and 3711.4 for failure to timely file a Financial Disclosure Statement required by D.C. Official Code §1-1106.02 is a fine of \$50.00 per day for each business day subsequent to the due date.

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3. In accordance with D.C. Official Code §1-1103.05(b)(3), the respondent may be fined a maximum of \$2,000.00 for failing to timely file a Financial Disclosure Statement.
4. For good cause shown pursuant to 3 DCMR §3711.6, the Director of Campaign Finance (Director) may modify, rescind, dismiss or suspend any fine.
5. Respondent's explanation for failing to timely file constitutes good cause for suspension of the fine.

**Recommendation**

In view of the foregoing and information included in the record, I hereby recommend that the Director suspend the imposition of the fine in this matter.

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**Date**

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**Jean Scott Diggs**  
**Hearing Officer**

**Concurrence**

In view of the foregoing, I hereby concur with the Recommendation.

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**Date**

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**Kathy S. Williams**  
**General Counsel**

**ORDER OF THE DIRECTOR**

**IT IS ORDERED** that the fine in this matter be hereby suspended.

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Date**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Cecily E. Collier-Montgomery**  
**Director**

**SERVICE OF ORDER**

This is to certify that I have served a true copy of the foregoing Order.

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Rose Rice**  
**Legal Assistant**

**NOTICE**

Pursuant to 3 DCMR §3711.5 (1999), any fine imposed by the Director shall become effective on the 16<sup>th</sup> day following the issuance of a decision and order, if the respondent does not request an appeal of this matter. If applicable, within 10 days of the effective date of this order, please make a check or money order payable to the D.C. Treasurer, c/o Office of Campaign Finance, Suite 420, 2000-14<sup>th</sup> Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20009.